

1598

ASHTON-upon-MERSEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. Charles J. Renshaw.

Population at Census 1891	-	4,234	
Estimated Population 1898	-	5,260	
Area in acres.	-	1,622	
Birth rate per 1000 living		25.3	
Death rate per 1000 living		15.7	
Death rate for seven principal zymotic diseases		3.2	
Deaths under one year to 1000	<i>Births</i>	180.14	
<i>Deaths under one year</i> 24	<i>per 1000</i>	22	<i>Total deaths 83</i>
			<i>Total births 133</i>

4th. Annual Report.

Cases of Infectious diseases notified.

Scarlet fever - 6 cases - one fatal.

Diphtheria - 9 cases - two fatal

Typhoid fever - ~~4~~ cases

Erysipelas - 6 cases

Measles ¹⁵³ ~~146~~ cases - ~~1~~ fatal

Diarrhoea (not notified -) ~~4~~ fatal

Whooping cough 7 cases

1898 During January, three cases were reported of Diphtheria, these cases occurred in one house and were traced to importation. The Local Board's attention was called to this; a child in the same house suffered from a very slight attack in October, this case was also supposed to be imported, on each occasion very careful search was made for any possible cause of infection on the premises, but none was found.

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Death rate per 1000 living	-	18.7

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Deaths under one year to 1000 180.4

4th Annual Report.

Cases of infectious diseases notified.

Scarlet fever	- 8 cases - one fatal.
Diphtheria	- 9 cases - two fatal
Typhoid fever	- 4 cases
Erysipelas	- 6 cases
Measles	- 10 cases - 1 fatal
Diarrhoea (not notified)	- 4 fatal
Whooping cough	7 cases

During January, three cases were reported of Diphtheria. These cases occurred in one house and were traced to importation. The Local Board's attention was called to this, a child in the same house suffered from a very slight attack in October, this case was also supposed to be imported, on each occasion very careful search was made for any possible cause of infection on the premises, but none was found.

During the early part of the year there were a few cases of whooping cough, consequent on an epidemic at the end of 1897, this, as also measles is now a notifiable disease, which gives your Sanitary Committee much more power to act promptly, in case of necessity. These did not appear to be sufficient to alter the teaching arrangements as far as the schools were concerned, but strict surveillance was used to keep any child so suffering from attending school.

In Feb On the subsidence of whooping cough, an epidemic of measles appeared in part of your Authority, chiefly that of St. Martin's Ward, and owing to the numbers of children suffering it was deemed necessary to close the school of St. Martin's, this had the desired effect, for the measles very rapidly lessened in number after the closing.

Of scarlet fever we have had a few sporadic cases, but no spreading of the disease in any case, showing that the disinfecting was well done and of a good system.

There have been 4 cases of typhoid, *two of which came in for which the Moss Side tip at Cross Street has been kept in good order,*

The Moss Side tip at Cross Street has been kept in good order, but Barrow Brook has been a bone of contention, and has been a source of danger to the community. There have been many complaints from smells at the north west part of the Authority, especially from the direction of the Moss Side sewage, *it is understood* and I understand the Authorities on that side, as well as altering their drainage have been induced to promise to plant more trees along their land as the smell can so be to a large extent prevented, especially if these trees be pines or poplars, the poplars rapidly absorbing moisture from the ground. and the pines giving off ozone. *The Sheffield Urban Council have promised to plant trees between their & that of the Authority.*

Mr. Vulliamy has also stated his intention of planting trees along the Moss Side tip upon his land of 12 acres. He has also given the Authority the right of planting trees on the land of the Sheffield Urban Council.

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Needs much of which
Two diseases frequent in your Authority, ^{some time} ~~now~~ ^{ago},
consumption and rheumatic fever, have lessened considerably in the
past few years, the chief causes ^{are} ~~I~~ ^{attributed} ^{able} to the purer air, partly
caused by the number of pine trees planted by the late Mr. Samuel
Brooks and Sir W. Brooks in the neighbourhood, ~~I~~ and the better draining
of the land, ~~I~~ together with healthier houses and cottages; fresh air
and sunlight being a destroyer of the microbe of consumption, and the
most powerful aids to health.

The great heat of August and September - 92° in the shade, did
good, the illness during these months was slight and the death rate
low, there were ^{have} a number of cases of diarrhoea, ⁴ ~~none~~ of which in young
children were fatal. In connection with this disease, we require
the assistance of each householder, to allow no decaying matter, pre-
ventible, to remain near the houses, not to put vegetable matter or
water into the ashpit, but to use the ashes freely in connection with
these pits.

The Vaccination Act, as now passed, was intended to lessen the
friction in its working by deleting the compulsory clauses, it remains
to be seen if it will be a success or not, A proposal was made for
the Bucklow district that it would be necessary to have a small pox
hospital, this matter is one for grave consideration, for it is of
the greatest possible difficulty to prevent the spread of that dire
disease when it invades a district unless free and extensive vaccina-
tion be immediately had resource to, vaccination is the only preventa-
tive. It is almost impossible to get nurses to watch the cases of
small pox especially if the case be in a cottage.

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consumption and rheumatic fever, have lessened considerably in the
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Consented to by you

please

Your Authority has ~~joined~~ ^{*to be built*} Withington in their ~~contagion~~ hospital ~~now building~~ at Baguley, an extremely wise course to have adopted, but small pox patients cannot be taken into that hospital; they must either be dealt with in their own homes or in a hospital or building used exclusively for small pox, *Isolation may be a means of lessening its spread.*

Many houses where the drains have been found to be bad have been attended to, but there are still many at fault, these by degrees will be remedied; new drains have been put down and ~~are~~ acting well. ~~No case that could be attributed to faulty sewers has been reported,~~ *The* sewage effluent is satisfactory, the willow drainage beds are acting very well, your effluent being amongst the best reported by Professor Roscoe. These beds in consideration of the increase of the population in the future should be enlarged.

The shippons and slaughter houses are in good order.

No diseased meat or tuberculous cows have been reported.

In October 4 cases of diphtheria were reported, these were all treated by means of antitoxin, and all have recovered.

The water supplied by the Cheshire Water Company has been of excellent quality, though not always in sufficient quantity, this latter will I understand not need to be mentioned in the future.

The following have been issued by your Authority during 1898, not previously

Medical Officer ~~and~~ issuing Order re isolation of infectious cases - prosecution in ~~cases~~ of exposure.

Flushing sewers in hot weather.

Moss Lane (new sewers completed early in this year)

Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Order adopted.

Tip land purchase - agreement signed

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Harboro Road (new sewer laid to portion of Road)

Nuisances abated at

Eves Hey.

Ba~~B~~wick place.

Church lane.

Mersey Road (recent properties)

Southern Road do.

Stamford Street.

Byelaws are now before the Local Board.

Your Committee visit^{ed} Stretford and Moss Side Sewage Farms.

Circulars, re water in ashpits. *None issued*

Disinfection in cases of consumption, persons dying.

~~Deaths from consumption.~~

Plans approved and application made to Local Government Board
for power to borrow money for

Tip land purchase

Moss Lane new Sewer.

Harboro Road new sewer.

Dumber lane sewer.

Bacteriological examination in connection with Owens College
Laboratory, will shortly be arranged.

Harboro Road (new sewer laid to portion of Road)

Missances abated at

River Hwy.

Baldwick Place.

Church Lane.

Mersey Road (recent properties)

Southern Road do.

Stanford Street.

Byelaws are now before the Local Board.

Your Committee visited Stanford and Moss Side Sewage Farms.

Circulars, re water in asphalts. Had water

Disinfection in cases of consumption, persons dying.

~~Drinks from consumption~~

Plans approved and application made to Local Government Board

for power to borrow money for

Tip land purchase

Moss Lane new sewer.

Harboro Road new sewer.

Dumber Lane sewer.

Bacteriological examination in connection with Oware College

Laboratory, will shortly be arranged.